

REMARKS

Further reconsideration of the application as amended is respectfully requested. The claims have been amended and are believed to clearly delineate the invention from the prior art.

The invention provides a motor vehicle such as a recreational vehicle that has a novel storage compartment in accordance with the invention. Among the novel features are the provision of a drop deck that serves a dual purpose as a floor to the compartment and also as a ramp to facilitate loading and unloading of the compartment. Lift means are provided to enable lifting the deck and a load that may be carried as cargo in the storage compartment. The art is devoid of such a teaching, instead relying on simple ramp structures, which fail to provide the advantages resulting from this invention.

Note that the Webb et al patent discloses lifting of the nose cone of an aircraft somewhat in the nature of a hatch, but that the ramp component cannot serve as a floor of a storage compartment since it is stored in a vertical position. The secondary references do not suggest any modification that would overcome this shortcoming in the prior art. Thus, it is submitted that the prior art does not disclose nor suggest the invention as defined by the claims.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that the claims as resubmitted are all patentable and that the application is in condition for allowance. Thus favorable reconsideration is earnestly solicited.

Amendment Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.114
Serial No. 10/003,589
Page 6

CONCLUSION

Accordingly, Applicant submits that the above amendments place this application in condition for allowance.

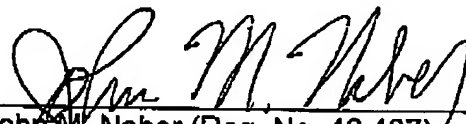
In the event any further matters requiring attention are noted by the Examiner or in the event that prosecution of this application can otherwise be advanced thereby, a telephone call to Applicant's undersigned representative at the number shown below is invited.

A Petition for a Three Month Extension of Time is being filed concurrently with this Amendment. Please apply any charges or credits to Deposit Account No. 502197.

Respectfully submitted,

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Amendment Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.114
Serial No. 10/003,589
Page 7